THE BOSTON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. III.] TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1831. [No. 51.

I.

NEURALGIA AND TUMORS OF NERVES.

From the Medico-Chirurg. Review.

After amputation and after injuries, the nerves sometimes swell and form small tubercles, which at times are acutely painful, especially on changes of weather. But slight or severe operations, in very irritable persons, and particularly in young females, will give rise to painful affections, which appear to depend more on a hysterical or nervous habit, than on organic changes in the nerves. Thus the painful affections in the arms of young women, so frequent after venesection, are, in nine cases out of ten, altogether unconnected with wound of the nerve, though the contrary is vulgarly imagined to be the case. The following would seem to be an instance of this kind.

Case 1.—Mr. Cowan amputated the forearm of a girl twenty years of age, at the secondary period, for an extensive wound by machinery. The stump healed, but she then became affected with excruciating attacks of pain in it, extending up the arm, generally commencing at 6 o'clock in the morning and evening, and lasting for some hours. The pain was excited by pressure on the stump at two particular points. She was cured by quinine in full doses, and a relapse shortly afterwards was likewise treated with success in the same manner.

Now it is not improbable that, had this young woman never undergone an operation at all, she would have suffered from some other form of those hysterical pains which are the heritage of her sex. But it is certain that injuries, however inflicted, give a greater disposition to these affections, and determine the part which the malady more especially attacks. In almost all the cases which we have witnessed of hysterical pain in the knee or breast, the patient has referred the origin of her complaint to a blow, real or imagined. The next case is of another description.

Case 2.—J. R., æt. 36, admitted Jan. 19, 1830, with a small tumor the size of a bean, a little above the left superciliary ridge of the frontal bone, towards its inner angle. It is freely moveable, and the seat of severe throbbing pain, extending across the forehead and over the scalp, excited by stooping, coming on in a paroxysm at nine o'clock in the evening, and continuing till day-break. The pain prevents sleep. He first observed the tumor when about the size of a pea some years ago, and attributes it to wearing the Scots Greys' helmet. He has had the paroxysms regularly every night for these last twelve months, but latterly they have much increased in severity. Mr. Cowan gave a trial to quinine, but it failed, and on the 23d he removed the tumor by the knife : it was firm in its texture, and appeared to be an enlargement of the nerve ; but of this Mr. C. speaks with diffidence. The patient was dismissed cured on the 26th, and remains well.

Case 3.—J. R., æt. 22, admitted Nov. 28th, with a large, hard, moveable tumor, occupying the posterior part of the lower third of the left thigh, and the upper part of the popliteal space. It presses out the ham-strings laterally, but is unattached to the integuments, which merely display a few enlarged veins. The tumor is devoid of pain, except when pressed laterally or downwards upon the femur, when acute pain is felt, succeeded in a few seconds by an aching on each side, and on the under surface of the heel, from which, at intervals, darting pains proceed to the toes and dorsum of the foot. These latter are felt independent of pressure on the tumor. The pains are so severe at night, that he constantly maintains the erect position, and his sleep is broken by troubled dreams. He has lost flesh, and the appetite is bad. The tumor was first noticed five years ago ; the severe pain in the foot commenced nine weeks ago.

During his continuance in the hospital, various means were tried without relief. Opium, iodine, leeches, blisters, quinine, were all unsuccessful. The extirpation of the tumor was " out of the question,"—the patient would not submit to amputation—,and on the 27th of January he left the house. He returned in the course of a month, the disease having increased in severity, and about the middle of May the limb was amputated. Mr. Cowan examined the tumor after it was placed in spirits : it was formed by a dilatation of the structure of the tibial nerve which formed the external covering, but internally it seemed to consist wholly of fibrine, separable with ease from its nervous sheath, to which it was unattached. The patient died three weeks after the operation, with symptoms of affection of the chest.

Mr. Cowan observes that this was an example of the disease *neuroma*, a term first applied, by Odier, of Geneva, to tumors formed by diseased enlargements of nerves. A paper on the subject, by Mr. Wood, President of the College of Edinburgh, will be found in Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, Vol. III., Part II. We have seen one case of tetanus, and heard of another, in which wound of a nerve produced a kind of knot or ganglion upon it, that appeared to be the cause of the tetanic symptoms. But this is a different kind of a case from that related by Mr. Cowan.

II.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF METALLIC MERCURY IN CASES OF VOLVULUS.*

By M. Ebers.

The author gives a rapid sketch of the various means that have been recommended in intestinal intus-susception, and then enters more at length into an account of the employment of quicksilver in such cases. In the use of this remedy, there is much less danger than has been supposed by many physicians; but it is doubtful whether it is equally applicable when the superior portion of intestine has slipped into the inferior, as when the reverse has happened. It would appear that it can only be of use when a lower portion of intestine is invaginated in an upper: but as it is absolutely impossible to distinguish this difference during life, we must take the chance, when symptoms occur of such a nature as to demand the treatment referred to.

---

* Bulletin des Sc. Medicales.

Two cases are related. In the first, a laborer of advanced age, who, after a very active life, had become comparatively indolent, was subjected to frequent attacks of pain in the belly, with constipation. Various remedies were prescribed; but at last, probably from a severe fit of indigestion, the pains increased very much in severity, and were not relieved by any treatment. Frequent vomiting came on, and at length fecal matter was discharged by the mouth. Every symptom announced the speedy dissolution of the patient, and, as a last resource, it was determined to give quicksilver. One ounce was given, and immediately after, a cup of broth. Two hours after, two ounces were administered. The vomiting now ceased, and the patient slept calmly. When he awoke he still complained of pain, but it was much diminished. He was persuaded, with some difficulty, to take a third dose of the remedy. In about an hour after this last dose, a loud borborygmus was heard in the belly; the patient was extremely restless, screamed out violently, and it was believed he would quickly die: but suddenly he rose from his bed, and discharged from the anus an immense quantity of fecal matter, and in the course of a very short time he had several stools. The mercury was seen divided into small globules in the evacuations. The cure was now completely effected.

In the second case, a woman had suffered violent colic for many days, in consequence of obstinate constipation. She vomited incessantly, and discharged fecal matter by the mouth, together with a brown chocolate-colored mass. Her face exhibited great anxiety; skin cold, pulse small and rapid, great debility. The danger was imminent. Great tenderness over the whole surface of the abdomen, which had a doughy feel, from the immense accumulation of feces. The patient was in a constant state of agitation, and uttered the most piercing cries. A warm bath and clysters were tried, without benefit. Every medicine was immediately rejected, with violent vomiting. M. Ebers now determined to give four ounces of quicksilver at a dose. In a few minutes after having taken it, she became more tranquil, although the pain continued with equal severity. In an hour, two ounces more of the metal were given, and the patient soon fell asleep. She had not dozed more than half an hour, when she awoke in an apparently dying state; but at the same moment she had a very copious and fetid evacuation, which was followed by several more. In each evacuation mercury was detected. After this free action upon the bowels, the patient was completely relieved, and in a few days she was restored to her accustomed health.

It will be observed, that, in both these cases, the mercury acted in a similar manner. At first there was a state of comparative calmness after taking the remedy, and then sleep. When the patients awoke, the symptoms were very alarming for a short time, but copious stools followed, and health was quickly restored.

III.

CASE OF EPILEPSY.

By J. M. **Staughton**, M.D., late Professor of Surgery in the Medical Department of the Columbian College.

From the Western Journ. of Med.

In the summer of 1827, a gentleman of about fifty-three years of age and of sedentary habits, as he was walking from Washington City to Georgetown, suddenly fell to the ground and was violently convulsed. After a few minutes he came to himself, and walked, not without much difficulty, to his lodgings in Georgetown, a distance of about half a mile. He was put to bed, and shortly after had another convulsion, which was followed by great exhaustion, during which the contents of the bladder and rectum were involuntarily discharged. I was sent for, and saw him that evening. I found him very weak from his convulsions; his pulse was full and soft, and there was nothing to indicate the slightest apoplectic tendency. His mind was unimpaired, and though he confessed himself much alarmed, coolly reasoned on the consequences. He was a man of great regularity in his mode of life, and his tongue did not seem to indicate that the epilepsy was of a gastric origin. After directing a stimulating pediluvium, I left him. The next morning he was better, sitting up and trying to write. He found that he could not command the motions of the right hand, and showed me, with great concern, the almost illegible lines that he had written. This gradually vanished, and in a few days he was able to walk over to my house, a distance of two miles, thinking himself perfectly recovered. A week or ten days after this, as he was walking along Pennsylvania Avenue, another convulsion prostrated him. He was carried into an adjoining house, and some one bled him. The venesection appeared to cause a repetition of the convulsion. He was put to bed, and a man was hired to attend him. When I saw him the next morning, he addressed me by name—then suddenly turned on his left side, and the whole right side of the body underwent a powerful convulsion, which lasted about a minute, and then gradually abated. From the consequent debility he slowly aroused, and entered into free conversation, which was arrested in about ten minutes by a similar convulsion, lasting much about the same length of time as the preceding, and which left him much in the same state. His attendant told me that these convulsions had succeeded each other, during the whole night, at intervals of ten or fifteen minutes, and that they resembled those that I had first witnessed. The patient's pulse was weak, and small, and quick. The skin, tongue, and countenance, were natural. The bowels were constipated. During the convulsions, the face was frightfully distorted on the right side, and the eyes wildly rolled in various directions, the lids remaining wide open. There was a regular motion of the right arm at the commencement of each convulsion, by which the thumb was brought over the forehead, ploughing up the skin and keeping the face bloody. I ought to mention more particularly that the convulsive action was confined to the right side of the body, the left remaining perfectly in a quiescent state, with the muscles flaccid — resembling, in a very striking manner, the effect of the *strychnos nux vomica* in Hemiplegia.

Without giving minutely the daily history of the case, I will simply state that these convulsions continued at the same intervals for nine days; his bodily vigor sinking under their exhausting effects, but his mind continuing calm and collected in the intermissions. He talked unreservedly with me on his temporal affairs, and was perfectly sensible of his dangerous state. He requested me to write to his sister in Corsica; of which island he was a native, to inform her of his dissolution, when it should occur. His vital energies were evidently giving way, and I looked forward to his certain departure.

He was a man of highly accomplished education, a graduate of one of the most distinguished Universities of Italy, and spoke the Latin, Italian, and French, with great fluency. It is very singular that, from the moment of his attack, he utterly forgot what little of English he had learned during his residence in Great Britain and America, nor did he ever recover it. Yet he retained a facile remembrance of the languages he had learned in his boyhood.

Notwithstanding I made use of all the therapeutic means which are universally employed in similar cases; and though I had the benefit of the advice of Drs. Mechlin and Burrows, of Washington, I am free to confess my belief that our remedies were of very little service, and that his recovery is to be ascribed to the powerful efforts of his system.

For he did recover—and the only vestige of his disease that remained was slight hemiplegia on the right side, which did not materially interfere with his walking. This, too, gradually wore off, and when, some months after, he left the city, a very slight halt in his gait indicated the relic of his paralysis.

A short time before he left Washington, he communicated to me confidentially the cause of his disease, with a request that after his death I would publish his case. He is since dead in a distant land, and I now comply with his request in presenting his history to the profession. From what I can learn, he fell a victim to the baneful cause which I proceed to mention. Ecclesiasticus fuit, et regulis ecclesiæ suæ a matrimonio prohibitus. Per complurimos annos assuefactus fuit libidinis suæ de masturbatione solatium prœbere.

I am aware that this is no new case. The writings of Tissot, Broussais, Fournier, and others, present many interesting cases of this character.

This miserable victim of a habit, unfortunately but too common, ascribed the failure of his memory and of his health to this cause, and bitterly did he lament that the institutions of his sect prescribed a life of celibacy which so illy corresponded with his passions and social feelings.

IV.

REMARKS ON THE INFLUENCE OF ACIDS IN PROMOTING SALIVATION.*

Communicated in a Letter to Dr. Drake.

Dear Sir,—I observed in the April No. of the "Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences," an article from the North American Med. and Surg. Journal, noticing a letter of Dr. Harty, of Dublin, in which it is stated that the use of the sulphate of quinine accelerates mercurial salivation, and frequently induces calomel to excite ptyalism, when it probably would not otherwise have occurred.

In reflecting on this subject, I am inclined to think that Dr. Harty has not made the requisite observation on the use of the article. I have been in the practice of using the sulphate of quinine pretty extensively for several years, during the administration of calomel, and have observed no such effect as that of accelerating mercurial salivation. Besides, Dr. H. has not stated *his manner of preparing and exhibiting the quinine*, which is certainly very important in forming an opinion on the subject. If Dr. H. dissolved the quinine in water, by adding a small quantity of diluted sulphuric acid, as is a very common practice, ptyalism, when calomel or any other preparation of mercury had been used, would be a very probable consequence, as I have often witnessed; but the salivation, in this case, would be owing to the acid in the mixture, and not to the quinine.

I have observed, for a number of years, that acids of any kind will cause calomel to affect the mouth, when no such effect would have resulted from its use, had the acids been entirely avoided.

Bilious remittent fevers prevailed extensively, during the summer of 1828, in this place and the surrounding country, and my brother and myself were in the daily use of calomel as a cathartic, and quinine as a tonic, in the latter stages of the disease; yet we had not more than five or six cases of sore mouth, and these were brought about by the use of acids—lemonade, vinegar, or soda powders, in which there was an excess of acid—or pickles, &c. We are in the practice of giving calomel liberally, without having anything like ptyalism in any case where we do not wish to produce it, and can get our patients rigidly to follow directions.

I am of opinion, that in remittent fevers, mercury, when its action is determined to the glands about the mouth, becomes, instead of a salutary remedy, *a local irritant*. If this opinion be true, a salivation ought not to be produced by mercury, in this disease, unless we feel confident that we can produce, at the same time, *a mercurial fever*, which shall supersede and take the place of the original disease. Even in this case, it is questionable whether the indication may not be better answered by a different course.

---

* From the same.

I have long since adopted the opinion, that *we may, with proper care, have all the advantages which mercury can afford, without its inconveniences*, in every description of fever calling for its use. With these views, I have prescribed it almost habitually, both as a cathartic and alterative, only using the precaution to direct my patients to avoid every kind of acid. The prejudices, and almost insuperable objections, which many people have to the use of calomel, seem to have had their origin in the inconvenience on salivation. These prejudices frequently deprive us of the use of this invaluable article: an article which we can use when scarcely any other can be retained in the stomach; which, when combined with opium, has no superior in calming an irritable stomach; which will change the secretions of the liver, and chylopoietic viscera, from a morbid to a healthy kind, more certainly than any other in the materia medica.

Humanity requires that we should inflict no more pain, nor subject our patients to no more inconvenience or suffering, than the necessity of the case absolutely demands. Why should we then subject our patients to the pain and inconvenience of a mercurial sore mouth, when we are able to cure them without it; especially if we can obtain all the remedial agency of mercury without salivation?

If avoiding every kind of acid during the use of mercury, will enable our patients to escape salivation, by reversing the rule in those cases in which we wish a speedy salivation, we may almost always succeed in producing this effect by giving acid drinks freely, and at the same time washing the mouth with vinegar, or other acids. This I have found true in those *few* cases in which I have had occasion to try it. And I have very little doubt that other practitioners, after a fair trial, will find it generally the case.

I have been led to make these remarks, in consequence of not being able to recollect any notice of the effect of acids, when given along with, or shortly after the use of, calomel.—Should you think them of any use to the profession, you are at liberty to publish them.

Very respectfully, your friend,
THOS. TOWNSEND.

V.

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME SPORADIC CASES OF APHTHOUS SORE MOUTH, OCCURRING IN PREGNANT FEMALES, AND ATTENDED WITH SOME UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS.

By Dr. JOHN COOK BENNET, of Barnesville, Ohio.

BELIEVING it to be the duty of every physician to record and report all diseases attended with malignant or uncommon symptoms, I proceed to give you an account of a very troublesome disease, several cases of which have lately fallen under my observation, and were attended with a degree of obstinacy and severity that I was perfectly unprepared for by anything I had previously seen or read.

The subjects of the disease were all females in a state of pregnancy. Whether this circumstance had an influence in predisposing to the disease, or whether the association was merely accidental, the number of cases I have met with does not authorize me to determine. The first symptom which attracted the attention of the patient, was an immoderate flow of saliva, as profuse as if the salivary glands were acted on by mercury. The saliva soon became so offensive to the patient, as to keep the stomach in a state of continual irritation, and, in the more severe cases, to produce anorexia, and occasional vomiting. In a few days, small white vesicles appeared on the tip and edges of the tongue. These vesicles soon extended over the whole surface of the mouth, and were so much disposed to ulcerate, that deep and troublesome sores were formed, so very irritable that scarcely anything could be taken into the mouth without causing extreme pain. The disease soon extended to the alimentary canal, its progress being marked by a burning sensation in the stomach, with tenderness on pressure, flatulence, acidity, and disposition to vomit, in some instances so great as to reject with violence everything received into the stomach. The administration of cathartics produced watery evacuations, frequently combined with membranous flakes of coagulable lymph, or with streaks of blood, and, in the advanced stages of the disease, with pus. The irritation, in some cases, appeared to extend to the schneiderian membrane, as both the taste and smell were very much impaired.

The febrile symptoms were very slight in the early stages of the disease, except in one case, in which they ran high. When, however, the patient became reduced, from the salivation, pain, and loss of sleep, the vascular system partook in the general irritability. The salivation and the aphthous condition of the mouth continued about four months, and then gradually subsided. Upon one case, a troublesome dysuria attended.

In the treatment of the disease, mild purgatives, principally castor oil and magnesia, were used at the commencement, and occasionally, as the symptoms required, throughout the disease, and were almost the only remedies that proved of decided utility. The various antacids were used with very little advantage. The great irritability and soreness limited us very much in the use of gargles. The aqueous solution of opium produced temporary palliation; the various astringent gargles were tried, without affording relief. The most advantage was derived, in the advanced stage of the disease, from a weak preparation of muriatic acid. The above, with the occasional administration of an anodyne, as the severity of the pain and the irritability of the system required, was the outline of the remedial treatment pursued. The diet of the patient, at the commencement, was composed principally of mucilaginous drinks, and, in the advanced stages, to these were added light articles of farinaceous food.

Five of my patients recovered, and one died. I am not aware that any mode of treatment was materially instrumental in shortening the disease. It appeared obstinately to run its course, in spite of our remedies, continuing about four months in each case, and then gradually subsiding.—*Ib.*

VI.

REMARKS IN RELATION TO THE USE OF THE TROCAR IN PARACENTESIS ABDOMINIS.

By Jabez W. Heustis, M.D., of Alabama.

Whoever has performed the operation of paracentesis of the abdomen with the trocar in ordinary use, must be aware of the degree of difficulty attending it. The operation is simple and unimportant itself, but when the trocar is pushed against the parietes of the abdomen, considerable force is required to make it enter. This comes partly from the abrupt bluntness of the trocar, but principally from the resistance exerted by the canula ; the surrounding parts closing upon and embracing the perforator, and thus refusing admission to the instrument without the use of considerable force. Having uniformly experienced these difficulties in the use of the trocar, of which I have used those of the best construction, I have, for a considerable time, laid this instrument entirely aside in all cases of ascites requiring puncturing. As a substitute, I make use of the common thumb lancet ; in the distended state of the abdomen this is introduced without the least difficulty, and, contrary to what happens with the trocar, causes little or no pain. For a canula, to conduct the water, I make use of a quill cut off at both ends. A silver canula, with one end closed, and a small opening on each side, would be more elegant, but not having an instrument of this description, I have found the quill answer every purpose. The superior advantage and facility of this mode of operating, need only to be tried to be fully appreciated. I claim but little merit in the plan here prescribed, presuming that others may have previously adopted the same,—being a practice that would obviously suggest itself to every one who has had any share of experience in paracentesis abdominis.

New York Med. Journ.

VII.

CASE IN WHICH A NAIL WAS SWALLOWED BY A CHILD SIX YEARS OLD.

By J. W. Heustis, M.D., of Alabama.

On the ninth of November, I was sent for in haste to visit a child six years of age, who, I was told, had swallowed a shingle nail. On my arrival, I found the child apparently well, complaining of no pain or uneasiness, though I learned that his throat had been considerably scratched by the passage of the nail, which was rusty, and a little crooked at the point. I remained all night ; but no unfavorable symptoms occurring, I did not think proper to exhibit any medicine with the view of producing the expulsion of the nail, concluding that the more quiet the stomach and bowels could be kept, the greater probability would there be of its passing off without producing any injury. No unpleasant symptoms took place for about a week, when, very early one morning, the child was suddenly seized with pain and great sickness of the stomach—and in the effort of vomiting he threw up the nail he had swallowed, which had undergone little or no change from its lodgment in the stomach. The danger to be apprehended was, that, by getting entangled in the mucous coat of the stomach and intestines, it might have brought on dangerous and fatal inflammation. And it would appear a little singular that so rough a substance should have remained so long in contact with the delicate lining of the stomach, without giving rise to any unfavorable symptom, or even occasioning any painful sensation. The probability is, that in attempting to pass into the duodenum, it met with some obstruction at the pyloric extremity of the stomach, and, producing irritation, gave rise to the effort of vomiting which caused its expulsion. Had the stomach failed in this effort, which we might consider as very possible, we may readily suppose that dangerous symptoms would have speedily ensued.—*Ib.*

VIII.

FŒTAL SKELETON IN UTERO.

To the Editor of the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

Sir,—A few weeks since, the keeper of a small market, in this city, desired me to examine a tumor, discovered by him in cutting up the carcase of a fat ewe. Its connexion with the rectum convinced me, at first sight, that it was the uterus, but completely imbedded in fat. The good condition of the body was an indication of the excellent health of the animal. On laying open the tumor, about the size of a man's fist, I was astonished to discover the entire skeleton of a fœtal lamb, divested completely of all the flesh, tendons, and the like appendages, and resembling bones that have been macerated. I have carefully preserved the whole in a glass receiver.

Remarks.—Probably the ewe was severely injured, just before the period of parturition, by a blow, that induced a high degree of inflammation, and finally adhesion of the sides of the vagina. Nature then went to work with the absorbents, and had conveyed everything extraneous away but the skeleton, which would undoubtedly have disappeared within a year or two, had the animal been permitted to live. In the course of my professional life, I have been consulted by a woman, in whose womb was the skeleton of a child, which had then been retained there sixteen years, in consequence of the adhesion of the walls of the vagina, owing to the bad management of a midwife. A fistulous opening was made through the muscles over the ischiatic notch, and a constant fetid discharge was kept up. Hair, nails, occasionally bones of the fingers, &c., were forced out. A large opening must have been made on the back side of the fundus of the uterus, in order to allow the exit of so much matter as was continually oozing from the organ. In the first volume of the Medical Intelligencer, a further and more particular account of this extraordinary case may be found, drawn up by me about six years ago.

Very respectfully,
Jerome V. C. Smith.
Health Office, Boston.
Jan. 27, 1831.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1831.

NEURALGIA—SPINAL IRRITATION.

It is very common for a physician to be consulted for the purpose of relieving pains in various parts of the body, which are described to him as rheumatic, and which yet have resisted the usual treatment of such affections. These affections, so common in all, but more particularly in young females, are often the cause of more perplexity to the attendant than are much graver maladies. Fixed pain in the side, under the left mamma, along the course of the colon, in the shoulder, arm, head, pelvis, or other parts,—palpitations of the heart, trembling of the stomach (with or without flatulence, acidity, gastrodynia, or dyspepsia), heats and flushings of the face and head, throbbings of the temple, and such like complaints, unattended by fever and unassuaged by local treatment, are not seldom causes of vexation to us, and discouragement to our patients. He, therefore, is deserving our thanks and commendation, who attempts to remove these obstructions from our pathway.

This subject has been suggested, at the present time, by the appearance of a work among us by Mr. Teale, of Leeds, Eng., on Neuralgic Diseases. The views taken by the author are sanctioned by his own experience and that of many other practitioners; and an attentive perusal of his work will doubtless enable the physician to cure up some old and troublesome cases, and contribute much to his usefulness, and perhaps reputation, in his future labors.

Neuralgia is usually said to be a disease of modern date, or at least to have occurred, of late years, with a very extraordinary frequency and severity. This is doubtless true in a degree. But the application of the term has been so changed, as to account quite easily for this common observation. Neuralgia was formerly a term employed solely to express an affection marked by a very acute pain in some particular nerve or nerves. It now embraces many other disorders of the nerves, not attended by pain of a spasmodic nature or of unusual severity, but by some other perverted state of their functions. All those complaints we have named, and an almost endless variety of others, are now classed, by the best writers, under this comprehensive head.

It is the opinion of Mr. Teale that these affections are the result of a morbid condition, not of the nervous filaments which are the immediate seat of the pain, but of the larger nervous masses from which those filaments are derived;—and he attributes the inefficacy of treatment to the fact that our remedies are applied to the part in which the uneasiness is felt, and not to the more remote and less obvious seat of disease.

These views of Mr. T. are not altogether new. They were first suggested, so far as we can learn, in the year 1821, in a letter from Mr. Player, an English surgeon, to the Quarterly Journal of Science. An essay by Dr. Brown, of Glasgow, in which similar opinions are expressed, appeared about two years ago, under the title of "Irritation of the Spinal Nerves,"—and a paper on "Some Forms of Cerebral and Spinal Irritation" was shortly afterwards published by Dr. Darwell, of Birmingham, in the Midland Reporter. These gentlemen have all offered numerous and very strong cases in support of their opinions, some of which, by way of illustration, will be shortly transferred to our columns.

VIRUS OF SMALLPOX, VACCINATED.

Dr. Ozamann, of Lyons, presented to the French Academy, at a late sitting of that Institution, a paper in which some discoveries respecting the variolous matter were made known, which, if anything but imaginary, are of the greatest importance. He states in this communication, "1st, that he has ascertained that the matter of smallpox, if mixed with fresh cow's milk, produces an eruption similar to that of the vaccine virus, and has the same faculty of propagating the vaccine disease innate in man, but that it was imported into Europe about the 6th century, by the Moors of Spain; 2d, that the vaccine is real variola, but of the most benign species; 3d, that by inoculating with the vaccine virus alone, or with that of variola mingled with fresh cow's milk in very small quantity, we obtain generally as many pustules or punctures, and that the pustules are the real smallpox, which guarantees children from this malady, in its state of malignity." If we are thus to have a fountain of vaccine virus which will be opened just at the periods when it is most in requisition, less attention will be required than at present to preserve the virus at all times fresh and in abundance. If there be any truth in the opinion entertained by many, that the matter is modified and deteriorated by passing through the human constitution, we have here an easy mode of obtaining such as is free from these suspicions; and a third convenience which will result from this discovery, if it proves correct, will be found in the facility of procuring fresh virus in countries where vaccination is rarely or never practised, and which are remote from those which are experiencing its inestimable blessings.

There are some circumstances in the history of vaccination, which induce us to regard these sentiments of Dr. O. as worthy of further investigation; and should a favorable opportunity occur, it is to be hoped the practitioner will not allow it to pass unimproved. The circumstances in which the experiment may be most fairly tried, are, when unprotected individuals, who have been exposed to smallpox, are beyond the reach of vaccine virus, and might therefore be subjected to the risk of a variolous inoculation, rather than an attack of the natural variola.

ACT FOR LEGALIZING THE STUDY OF ANATOMY IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

The great length of the Report presented to the legislature by the Committee to whom was referred the subject of legalizing the study of anatomy in this Commonwealth, prevents our offering it entire to our subscribers. The subjects discussed at length in the Report are:—

1st. The Rise and Progress of Anatomical Science.

2d. Its indispensable importance to both great branches of the Healing Art,—the practice of Medicine and Surgery.

3d. The interest which Society at large, especially, and the Medical Profession incidentally, have in the modification of the laws of this Commonwealth, so as to afford a reasonable facility for the pursuit of Anatomical Science.

4th. The Provisions, and the Character and Effect, of our present laws, regulating the practice of Physic, and for the Protection of the Sepulchres of the Dead.

5th. The Provisions that have been made in France and other enlightened countries, for the promotion of Anatomical Science.

6th. Those general conclusions, which the Committee recommend for legislative sanction by legal enactments, with a view to like results in our enlightened Commonwealth.

The consideration of these subjects occupies more than 70 octavo pages, and the following are the general results alluded to:—

1st. Anatomy is an important science, whose successful cultivation and improvement is of essential interest to all classes of the population of this Commonwealth.

2d. Dissection for anatomical purposes is highly laudable, and deserving of public encouragement, so far as it can be done without violence to the feelings of surviving relatives or friends.

3d. That the Laws of the Commonwealth, which now act indirectly on the study of anatomy, require change, and that the study of anatomy should be legalized.

The following Act is proposed by the Committee for the purpose of accomplishing the desired object, and Thursday next, at 11 o'clock, is assigned for the discussion of the subject in General Court. The Act appears to us unexceptionable, and, for the credit of the State and the general good, we ardently hope it may receive the unanimous support of the enlightened members of the Legislature.

Sect. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That if any person, not being authorized by the Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, or Selectmen, in any town of this Commonwealth, or by the Directors of the House of Industry, Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, or Mayor and Aldermen, of the City of Boston, in said Commonwealth, shall knowingly or wilfully dig up, remove or convey away, or aid and assist in digging up, removing and conveying away, any human body, or the remains thereof, —such person or persons so offending, on conviction of such offence in the Supreme Judicial Court of this Commonwealth, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and shall be punished by solitary imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten days, and by confinement afterwards to hard labor for a term not exceeding one year; or shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars to enure to the benefit of the Commonwealth, and by imprisonment in the common jail for a term not exceeding two years at the discretion of the Court, according to the nature and aggravation of the offence.

Sect. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That if any person shall be in any way, either before or after the fact, accessary to the commission, by any person or persons, of the offence described in the first section of this Act—such person or persons shall be adjudged and taken to be principals, and shall be, on conviction in the Court aforesaid, subject to the same punishments and forfeitures as are in said first section provided.

Sect. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, and Selectmen, of any town in this Commonwealth, and for the Directors of the House of Industry, Board of Health, Overseers of the Poor, and Mayor and Aldermen, of the City of Boston, in said Commonwealth, to surrender the dead bodies of such persons as may be required to be buried at the public expense, to any regular physician, duly licensed according to the Laws of this Commonwealth, to be by said physician used for the advancement of anatomical science;—preference being always given to the Medical Schools that now are or hereafter may be established by law in this Commonwealth, during such portions of the year as said schools or either of them may require subjects for the instruction of Medical Students:—*Provided always*, that no such dead body shall in any case be so surrendered, if, within twenty-four hours from the time of its death, any one or more persons, claiming to be kin, friend or acquaintance to the deceased, shall require to have said body inhumed; but said body shall be inhumed, and, when so inhumed, any person, without the authority specified in the first section of this Act, disinterring the same, or being accessary, as is described in the second section of this Act, to its exhumation, shall be liable to the punishments and forfeitures in this Act respectively provided:—*And provided further*, that every physician so receiving any such dead body, before it be lawful to deliver him the same, shall, in each case, give to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Boston, or to the Selectmen of any town of this Commonwealth, good and sufficient bond or bonds, that each body, by him so received, shall be used only for the promotion of anatomical science; that it shall be used for such purpose only in this Commonwealth, and so as in no event to outrage the public feeling; and that, after having been so used, the remains thereof shall be decently inhumed.

Sect. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for any physician duly licensed according to the laws of this Commonwealth, or for any medical student under the authority of any such physician, to have in his possession, to use and employ human dead bodies, or the parts thereof, for the purposes of anatomical inquiry or instruction.

Sect. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the Act passed March 2, 1815, entitled "An Act to protect the Sepulchres of the Dead," and also all other Acts, or parts of Acts, contravening the provisions of this Act, be, and the same hereby are, repealed.

Quackery.—Died, in Chester township (Penn.), Oct. 3, Fanny, daughter of James Haynes, in the 23d year of her age. The circumstances attending the death of this amiable young woman are lamentable indeed. She died the victim of the most abominable quackery. She had been for some weeks afflicted with a violent paroxysmal pain in the head, called, by the physician who attended her, nervous rheumatism, or to speak (as he expressed himself) technically correct, neuralgia, if my recollection of the term he used be correct. A quack from

Baltimore, arriving in Chester, assuming too the sacred garb of a preacher of the everlasting gospel of truth, learns that she is ill—calls to see her—assures her "nothing ails her head," but that it is "her stomach that is affected;" that his wife had been held exactly similar for five years, and that, after "many doctors" had failed in curing her, he had cured her himself; and assured Fanny that he would cure her "by next Saturday night," (this was on Wednesday). By harangues of this kind, he inspired her with confidence, and she was anxious that he should undertake her cure. He did undertake it. Railing against everything that had been done, he commenced his puking and sweating operations—washing her all over with *cold water* immediately on taking her out of the bath, with the intention, as he said, of *driving all the heat out of the skin* by sweating, and then *washing it off* with cold water. This method was pursued until her strength was so far exhausted, that she could not sit up without fainting. He now—rather in despair, probably—said "*his wife was as good a doctor as he was*," and he would bring her from Baltimore. She came, and their joint efforts failed to bring relief.

Another quack is now sent for to Philadelphia. On his arrival, he condemned all that had been done; says "the other doctors" have poisoned her, but that he could work it out of her; says she must be steamed "twice more," although at this time she was continually drenched with a cold sweat—owing, very probably, to the skin already having been so long and so frequently subjected to the excessive stimulation of great heat and moisture, as to have lost its power of contracting so as to close the pores. But she was steamed twice more. The quack says she is "too cold," and "must be heated." To effect this, he commences giving her cayenne pepper, alone or in combination (continuing too the emetics), till the throat, and no doubt the stomach, became so inflamed that she died in a few days. During all this time, too, the affection of the head, instead of yielding as her strength declined, was tenfold worse than it ever had been for a length of time before she died. But they pursued the one headlong course, unheeding all unfavorable changes, and probably considering them as evidences of "the doctor's poison coming out of her,"—as one of them, with an air of great self-congratulation, exultingly observed (at a time when there was every reason to fear that she would not live from one day to another), "the doctor's poison is nearly all out of her." Thus was cut off, in the spring time of life, this amiable young woman, and at a time when her parents and herself were flattered with the pleasing prospect of a speedy recovery.—*Upland (Penn.) Union.*

Transylvania University.—The Medical School attached to this flourishing Institution, at Lexington, Ky., appears to be in a flourishing condition; and we are delighted to find our brethren of the west so diligently and ably promoting the cause of medical education, and thus protecting the inhabitants of that part of the country from the impositions of quackery. There are, at this University, six professors of the different branches of the healing art, and *two hundred and eleven* medical students.

Want of room obliges us to defer till our next, a notice of some improvements to be made in the face of this Journal at the commencement of the 4th volume.

Whole number of deaths in Boston the week ending January 22d, 29. Males, 16,—Females, 13.

Of scarlet fever, 1—childbed, 1—consumption, 5—mortification, 2—lung fever, 2—croup, 1—infantile, 2—fever and ague, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—disease of the heart, 1—tape worm, 1—apoplexy, 1—suicide, 1—affection of the lungs, 1—quinsey, 1—stoppage in the throat, 1—unknown, 5.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WILLIAMS ON DISEASES OF THE LUNGS.

THIS day received, by CARTER & HENDEE, "A Rational Exposition of the Physical Signs of the Diseases of the Lungs and Pleura, illustrating their Pathology and facilitating their Diagnosis." By Charles J. B. Williams.
Dec. 6.

VACCINE VIRUS.

NATHAN JARVIS, on account of frequent solicitations, will constantly keep for sale FRESH VACCINE VIRUS, taken by a physician from *healthy* subjects. It will be furnished at a reasonable price on demand, either in scabs or quills. Physicians in the country who are in want of Virus, can send their orders by mail, as it can be enclosed in a letter and transmitted without any great expense of postage. June 1.

Apothecaries' Hall,
No. 188 *Washington Street.*

NEURALGIC DISEASES.

A TREATISE on Neuralgic Diseases, dependent upon Irritation of the Spinal Marrow, and Ganglia of the Sympathetic Nerve. By Thomas Pridgin Teale, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, &c. Just received by CARTER & HENDEE. Nov. 2.

JUST published, and for sale, by CARTER & HENDEE,—Malaria; an Essay on the Production and Propagation of this Poison. By John McCulloch, M.D. F.R.S., &c. &c.

BECLARD'S GENERAL ANATOMY.

CARTER, HENDEE & BABCOCK have this day received—Elements of General Anatomy, or a Description of every kind of Organ composing the Human Body. By P. A. Beclard, Professor of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. Preceded by a critical and biographical Memoir of the Life and Writings of the Author. By Olivier, M.D. Translated from the French, with Notes. By Joseph Togno, M.D., Member of the Philadelphia Medical Society. Dec. 28.

HALL ON LOSS OF BLOOD.

THIS day received, by CARTER & HENDEE, "Researches, principally relative to the Morbid and Curative Effects of Loss of Blood." By Marshall Hall, M.D. F.R.S.E. Dec. 6.

GERMAN LEECHES.

RICHARD A. NEWELL, Druggist, Summer Street, respectfully informs the Physicians and Public generally, that he has just received a fresh supply of the above-named *Leeches*, which will be sold at a *fair* price.

N. B.—Leeches sent to any part of the city, and applied, without extra charge, by day or by night. 6w—Nov. 8.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND CHEMICALS.

STUDENTS in want of the above articles, would do well to call, before purchasing, at BREWER & BROTHERS', Nos. 90 and 92 Washington Street—Boston.
Oct. 15. ep3m

ABERCROMBIE, ON DISEASES OF THE STOMACH.

JUST received by CARTER & HENDEE—Pathological and Practical Researches on Diseases of the Stomach, the Intestinal Canal, the Liver, and other Viscera of the Abdomen. By John Abercrombie, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, &c., and first Physician to his Majesty in Scotland. Sept. 28.

SURGEON DENTIST'S MANUAL.

JUST received, by CARTER & HENDEE, The Surgeon Dentist's Anatomical and Physiological Manual. By G. Waite, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Nov. 2.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.

THE BOSTON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. III.] TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1831. [No. 52.

I.

AGENCY OF ANIMAL DECOMPOSITION IN THE PRODUCTION OF FEVER.

THE following extract from Mr. Southwood Smith's recent invaluable treatise on fever, is interesting, as it contains his opinion on some subjects which have divided the learned in medicine, and his promise of enlightening the profession, at some future day, on other points of deep and practical interest.

In his chapter on the immediate or exciting causes of fever, Dr. S., after adducing some proofs of the acknowledged effects of vegetable decay in its production, proceeds thus: —

These examples may suffice to illustrate the operation of that febrile poison which arises chiefly from the decomposition of vegetable matter. The poison derived from the putrefaction of animal matter is still more pernicious: its effects are more powerful in degree, and worse in character; it operates more intensely on the nervous system, and less on the vascular; and the fevers it produces are invariably of the typhoid type, and of the continued form.

Without doubt, a febrile poison, purely of animal origin, in a high degree of concentration, would kill instantaneously; and when not intense enough to strike with instantaneous death, it would produce a continued fever with the typhoid characters, in the greatest possible degree of completeness and perfection. And this appears to afford the true solution of the origin of the plague. The more closely the localities are examined of every situation in which the plague prevails, the more abundant the sources of putrefying animal matter will appear, and the more manifest it will become, not only that such matter must be present, but that it must abound. And this also is one of the truths which was known to the observers of former times, but which has been forgotten. Were it not that the professional reading of an age is bounded by as strict a line as that which divides century from century; were it not that no one reads back beyond the authority which happens to give to the day its prevailing doctrines; were it not that the great repository of facts treasured up in the volumes of the close observers, though sometimes the bad reasoners of former days, thus becomes neglected for the dogmas of some modern writer, who reasons as ill, and who observes less,—the notion that vegetable malaria produces only intermittent fever, never could have become so prevalent as it is at present, nor could the influence of animal malaria ever have been so entirely overlooked. But it chanced that Cullen, in his definition of intermittent fever, assigned the miasma of marshes as the origin of the disease, while he makes no mention of animal malaria in his definition of any of the forms of fever; and as this author superseded all former authorities, by becoming the great authority of the age, few of his successors are acquainted in the slightest degree with the writings anterior to his period: whence it has happened that the numerous and invaluable facts observed and recorded by his predecessors, relative to the cause of fevers, have been disregarded until they have become wholly unknown. To cite the ancient and the more modern authorities who have observed and recorded the influence of animal malaria in the product of plague, would be to enumerate every distinguished writer, from Pliny and Diodorus Siculus, down to Galen, from Galen to Mead, and from Mead to Pringle.

In assigning the reason why Grand Cairo, in Egypt, is the birth-place and the cradle of the plague, Mead states that this city is crowded with vast numbers of inhabitants, who live not only poorly, but nastily; that the streets are narrow and close; that the city itself is situated in a sandy plain, at the foot of a mountain, which keeps off the winds that might refresh the air; that consequently the heat is rendered extremely stifling; that a great canal passes through the midst of the city, which at the overflowing of the Nile is filled with water; that on the decrease of the river, this canal is gradually dried up, and the people throw into it all manner of filth, carrion, offal, and so on; that the stench which arises from this, and the mud together, is intolerably offensive; and that, from this source, the plague constantly springing up every year, preys upon the inhabitants, and is stopped only by the return of the Nile, the overflowing of which washes away this load of filth: that in Ethiopia the swarms of locusts are so prodigious, that they sometimes cause a famine, by devouring the fruits of the earth, and when they die, create a pestilence, by the putrefaction of their bodies; that this putrefaction is greatly increased by the dampness of the climate, which, during the sultry heats of July and August, is often excessive; that the effluvia which arise from this immense quantity of putrefying animal substance, combined with so much heat and moisture, continually generate the plague in its intensest form; and that the Egyptians of old were so sensible how much the putrefaction of dead animals contributed towards breeding the plague, that they worshipped the bird Ibis, from the services it did in devouring great numbers of serpents, which they observed injured by their stench when dead, as much as by their bite when alive.

Nothing can be more striking than the cases recorded by Pringle, and which daily occurred to him, of the production of fever, exquisitely typhoid (according to the language of that day, jail and hospital fever), and of the sudden transition of intermittent and remittent into the continued and typhoid type, from the presence of a poison clearly and certainly of animal origin. Whenever wounded soldiers, with malignant sores, or mortified limbs, were crowded together, or whenever only a few of such diseased persons were placed in a room with the sick from other diseases, with those laboring under intermittent and remittent, for example, a severe and mortal typhus immediately arose; nay, whenever men, previously in a state of sound health, were too much crowded together for any considerable time, typhus (jail or hospital fever) was sure to be produced. The instances of such occurrences that are detailed, are too numerous to be cited, but they are so clearly stated, and so striking, that they well deserve to be consulted by whoever is desirous of clearly tracing the operation of this great cause of fever.

But by far the most potent febrile poison, derived from an animal origin, is that which is formed by exhalations given off from the living bodies of those who are affected with fever, especially when such exhalations are pent up in a close and confined apartment. The room of a fever-patient, in a small and heated apartment in London, with no perflation of fresh air, is perfectly analogous to a stagnant pool in Ethiopia, full of the bodies of dead locusts. The poison generated in both cases is the same; the difference is merely in the degree of its potency. Nature, with her burning sun, her stilled and pent-up wind, her stagnant and teeming marsh, manufactures plague on a large and fearful scale: poverty in her hut, covered with her rags, surrounded with her filth, striving with all her might, to keep out the pure air, and to increase the heat, imitates nature but too successfully; the process and the product are the same, the only difference is in the magnitude of the result. Penury and ignorance can thus at any time, and in any place, create a mortal plague. And of this no one has ever doubted. Of the power of the living body, even when in sound health, much more when in disease, and above all, when that disease is fever, to produce a poison capable of generating fever, no one disputes, and the fact has never been called in question. Thus far the agreement among all medical men, of all sects, and of all ages, is perfect.

But it happens that there is another form of animal matter capable of producing fever: namely, a matter secreted by the living body, constituting not only a poison, but a peculiar and specific poison. This specific poison produces not merely fever, but fever with a specific train of symptoms. In the acknowledgment of this fact, also, the agreement among all medical men is equally perfect.

But some contend that the poison generated in the first case, and that generated in the second, may both be properly called contagious: others maintain that the application of the same term to two cases so specifically different, destroys a distinction which it is useful to preserve, and that it would be more correct, as well as more conducive to clearness of conception, to call the poison generated in the first case an infection, and to restrict the term contagion, to designate the poison generated in the latter. Vast and immeasurable as the difference appears to be between the contagionists and anti-contagionists, if regard be had merely to their language, yet if attention be paid only to their ideas, to this, and to this only, narrow as the compass is, the whole controversy is reduced. It resolves itself wholly into the question, whether one word shall be used to express two cases which differ from each other in some important circumstances, or whether it may not be more convenient to employ two terms, and strictly to appropriate each to designate its own specific class. It must be manifest that, since both sects are perfectly agreed about the facts, the dispute can be only verbal. If the one would consent to restrict their use of the term contagious, for which there is the best authority and ancient custom, to those diseases which arise from a specific contagion, and would call those which arise from every other poison infectious, there would be an end to this apparently interminable, and in many respects mischievous, controversy.

Is the febrile poison, whether of vegetable or animal origin, or whether composed of both, capable of adhering to clothes, apparel, and other substances, in such manner as truly to infect them, so that when applied to the bodies of the healthy, at any distance of place, and at some distance of time, the specific effects of the poison are produced? That such substances may be so imbued with the poison of the smallpox, all admit: that the evidence should not be as complete relative to the power, or the inability of such substances to convey and communicate the poison of ordinary continued fever, is alike disgraceful to the state of our science, and injurious to the cause of humanity. There is no reason why the question should not be settled with absolute certainty; there is no manner of difficulty in determining it. Experiments the most direct, complete, and decisive, might be performed, which, if observed, during their progress, by competent witnesses, and duly authenticated, might ascertain the point with sufficient clearness and certainty, to satisfy not only the present age, but future generations. Once, for all, the full trial might be made, and if the trial were really full, it need never be repeated. A series of experiments completely decisive of the question, as far as regards the fever of our own country, which might be easily extended to the plague, were some time ago drawn out, and exertions were made to carry them into effect; but in the prevailing state of public opinion and feeling, it was found absolutely impossible to institute them on a scale at all adequate to render them decisive, without the aid of Government. There seems to be no possible mode of performing them effectually, unless Government will coöperate, by granting a free pardon to such convicts, as will voluntarily allow themselves to be made the subjects of them. The risk to them would be slight, the evil to the community none; while the danger, the suffering, the disease, the mortality, that would be prevented, to say nothing of the expense that would be spared by the decision of the question, would be incalculable. It is earnestly to be hoped that those who have it in their power to afford the means of putting this question at rest, will not allow it to remain in its present unsettled state. Science, commerce, humanity, alike demand that the truth should be ascertained.

This subject, it is my intention to take up, and to discuss fully in a future publication, in which will also be investigated some inquiries, which it has been found impossible to include in the present volume; such as whether the vegetable and animal poison we have been considering, be the only true exciting cause of fever; by what means its general diffusion is effected; on what conditions its propagation depends; by what measures its extension may be checked, and its power diminished or destroyed; what circumstances in the modes of life, in the habits of society, in the structure of houses, in the condition of the public streets and the common sewers, in the state of the soil over large districts of the country, as influenced by the mode of agriculture, drainage, and so on, favor or check the origin and propagation of this great curse of civilized, no less than of uncivilized man. It is obvious that these inquiries will include the investigation of several exceedingly curious and important statistical questions; and the object of these researches will be accomplished, should they lead to the establishment of any useful principles of extensive application.

II.

IRRITATION OF THE SPINAL CORD.*

By **William Hitch**, M.D., of Baltimore.

The persevering efforts of physiologists have at length succeeded in attaining pretty extensive credit to a few general propositions in relation to the nervous system. That all the operations of the animal economy, from the minutest movements in the secretory process, to the highest effort of reason and imagination, are dependent upon the agency of nervous influence, will, we believe, soon be regarded as an established doctrine in philosophical medicine; and, consequently, the laws of the nervous system are the laws of life. The mechanical and chemical theories have left not a wreck behind — the principle of life, or nervous influence, is acknowledged to be the point to which all observations should be directed. But of the internal nature of this important agent, its properties, mode of acting, or of being acted upon, we are most profoundly ignorant. A stimulus acts upon an organ—it performs its functions—this we see, but the part borne by this mysterious agent of life in the affair, is totally veiled from view.

The experiments of Charles Bell, sustained by other gentlemen of his own country, and by ingenious observations and speculations of some of the continental physicians, have enabled us to make a slight advance towards a classification of the very interesting phenomena of the nervous system. In the first stage of their generalization, they speak of the cerebro-spinal and ganglionic system; the former presiding over the intellectual operations, voluntary and respiratory motions, and all the functions of relative life—the latter controlling organic life, nutrition, absorption, secretion, &c. To the ganglionic system are referred all phenomena of inflammation. The cerebral system is again subdivided by Mr. Bell into symmetrical and irregular; the former consisting of thirty-one pairs of nerves with double roots, the fifth, sub-occipital, and the spinal, common to all animals, for the purposes of sensation and voluntary motion—the latter distinguished by single roots, superadded, according to the number and complication of superadded organs, for all the varieties of respiration, speech, and the expression of emotions. In reference to these views, and for its practical utility, the following case of spinal irritation may perhaps be worthy of notice.

---

* Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences.

March 15th, 1829, I was called, in consultation, to see Deborah Lynch, ætat. 14. Eight months before, she had lost the use of her superior extremities. They had gradually ceased to be under the control of the will; and when voluntary motions were attempted, they were not properly executed—the limb always moving the contrary way to that intended. Her physician resorted to the usual treatment, cathartics, tonics, stimulating frictions, &c., with so little success, that four weeks after the appearance of the first symptoms, the inferior extremities also became implicated, and, in a few days, totally paralyzed.

When I saw her, she had been confined seven months, unable to move herself; she complained much of a dull pain and indescribable uneasiness when her inferior extremities were suffered to remain a few hours in one position, and often most earnestly entreated her attendants to move them. It required considerable strength to do this—either to extend them when flexed, or flex them when extended. Any mental disturbance, from whatever cause, as the introduction of a stranger of a station in life superior to herself, or any disobliging conduct on the part of her elder sisters, would cause such convulsive agitation in her limbs, as to shake the room in which she lay, and gave her so much pain, that she would most earnestly entreat her mother, or some one near, to press upon them, and stop their motion.

Her extremities were much shrunk from their natural size, of a purplish hue; sensibility much impaired, but her general health had not suffered; her face indeed had the appearance of unusual health; all the thoracic and abdominal organs performed their functions with little interruption during the whole period of her confinement, nor had her disease prevented, or even suspended, the full and healthy development of the various changes in the female system incident to the age of puberty.

She was questioned, but gave no information that could lead to a satisfactory diagnosis. Upon examination of the spinal column, however, from whence we supposed the disease most probably emanated, we found the spinous process of the fifth cervical vertebra inclining to the right, unnaturally depressed, and that pressure on the lateral portion of the vertebra was painful.

Upon again questioning her whether she had not been injured in this part, she now recollected that, about three years before, she had lost the use of her limbs: an elder sister, upon her refusing to carry a bag of sumach berries which they had gathered, threw it with considerable force across her neck, by which she was prostrated to the earth. The shock gave her considerable pain, which had been continued at intervals up to the time of her confinement, but since that time, the pains in her inferior extremities having been so much more intense, the uneasiness in the neck, and the injury sustained there, had been forgotten.

Having now ascertained the seat of the disease, to excite a permanent counterirritation, we applied a seton immediately over the affected part. A strip of linen an inch wide was introduced, and on returning five or six days after, we found some granulations shooting out of the wound—the discharge of matter was trifling. For the purpose of procuring a discharge more copious, and for the removal of the granulations, we caused the strip of linen to be wet, several times a day, with a pretty strong solution of the sulphate of copper, to be continued until the granulations were destroyed, and the discharge of matter become more copious. No alteration appeared in her condition until the expiration of three months, when the superior extremities returned gradually under the control of the will, and have since remained free from the slightest muscular irregularity; but she was yet incapable of giving the smallest motion to the inferior extremities. Encouraged at our ends having been thus far accomplished, the superior extremities having returned under the control of the will, and rapidly approaching to a perfectly healthy condition, the consummation of which required only the stimulus of action, we felt exceedingly anxious to try a seton about the lumbar region. To this the patient positively objected—the seton in the neck, she said, had been so exquisitely painful, that she would not endure another, even if assured of being restored thereby to the use of her inferior limbs. Determined not to abandon the case after gaining so much, we requested her to let us place a plaster on her back—to which she readily assented. The plaster was applied, charged with the potential cautery, and remained twelve hours. On its removal, the impression made seemed considerable. The part was dressed with unguentum basilicon, which was suffered to remain until the next day, when we found a fine deep ulcer extending six inches along the spinal column, and one inch wide: this ulcer discharged copiously for six weeks, and at the expiration of three months, the patient found no difficulty in walking, has since remained in good health, and can undergo more bodily exertion than any of her sisters.

III.

REMARKS ON THE AMELIORATION OF OUR PHYSICAL CLIMATE.*

By David Thomas.

Among the visions of Philosophy in the last age, none has been more pleasing than the notion that with the destruction of our forests, the rigors of winter will abate; and that Hesperian fruits and flowers without protection, will soon decorate and enrich these northern regions.

It seems surprising that those theorists should permit a few isolated facts from history, and a few random assertions from poetry, to engross their attention, to the total neglect of every surrounding circumstance.

---

* Amer. Journ. of Science and Arts.

Let us consider what happens in our forests. The fallen leaves prevent the soil from freezing in winter;[*] the trees obstruct the radiation of heat in clear nights; the snow settles evenly through the woods; the cold winds are unable to throw it into drifts, and the warm winds to melt it until the commencement of spring. Many a green-house plant would abide the winter with such protection.

But with the removal of the forest, this shelter is withdrawn, and the ground *then* freezes to the depth of several inches.

If it be alleged that the warm winds have more access, so do the cold winds. If the sun shines clearly on the open plain, it gives more heat amid the reflection and shelter of leafless trees; and it is well known that fields surrounded by woods, produce earlier pasture than the open plains.[†]

But by what agent can a cultivated country disarm the wintry tempest of its rigor, when the mercury sinks below zero? How can it soften those freezing winds which overwhelm it for days together? On the vast surface of our inland seas, and on the wide spreading prairies of the West, how can cultivation affect the physical climate?—for there are no forests to be destroyed.

In *the open country* of the Mandans—not as far north as the city of Paris—Lewis and Clark found the thermometer 33 deg. below zero. At the falls of St. Mary's, *near Lake Superior*, Dr. Foot found it 30 deg. below zero "on the 6th of February;" and in the mornings of *the two last days of that month*, it stood 24 deg. below zero.

We are near to regions that endure a polar winter; we are within the reach of their frozen atmosphere; and we can hope for a milder climate only when the north winds shall be retained.

IV.

CASE OF LICHEN AGRIUS.

To the Editor of the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

SIR,—The enclosed statement of Lichen Agrius, of Bateman, is submitted for publication, if considered of sufficient moment.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

TIMO. L. JENNISON.

Cambridge, Jan. 24, 1831.

In June, 1823, Mrs. W., a woman otherwise in good health, aged 64, after a hard day's work, and very hot day, was attacked with a severe *Lichen Agrius* (of Bateman). Possessed of good powers of mind, she used various remedies, assayed by her own judgment, as well as the recommendation of her intimate friends. The result was equally fallacious; seeming but to augment her troubles, without curing her malady. In the following autumn, she became my patient with like want of success. I advised her afterwards to repair to the General Hospital, where a kind patroness aided my views. She tarried there —— weeks, availing herself of the advice of eminent physicians, good nurses, and strict regimen. She then returned home, despairing of any permanent benefit from the medical art, and soon became apparently as bad as ever.

---

[*] In this northern part of the 43d degree of latitude.

[†] It may be less known that some vernal flowers bloom finely in the woods, while the same kinds are despoiled of their beauty by frosts in the open garden.

Early in February, 1830, I proposed to her a trial of the Dogwood (Rhus Vernix), as more likely to be of use than any other remedy. Her sufferings were so great, that she readily assented to the experiment. I procured, by an agent, the trunks of two of those trees, from 7 to 10 feet in length, and 3 to 4 inches in diameter. They were deposited in a retired situation till I could attend to the use of them, a few days afterwards. As I did not consider myself liable to suffer from contact with it, I cut off so much of the bark as could readily be put into a junk bottle, and then caused it to be filled with pure old Jamaica rum, frequently well shaken, and kept in a warm nitch for four or five days. I then directed my patient to begin the internal use of it, in doses of three drops daily, till she should perceive some ill effect from it, by pain, or nausea at stomach. I then made a strong decoction of another parcel of the bark, putting one gallon of it into bottles, to be well corked up, for use externally. In order to ascertain whether it would prove useful in that way, and seven days after the first use of the tincture, I directed her to wash the *left arm* and *right lower limb* with it, at any and at all times, and at the temperature of her room; but not to apply any of it to the other limbs. In this way she proceeded till the last of March, without producing any appearances different from those on the other limbs. During this space of time, I had advised her to use her common diet, avoiding much condiment and stimulating drink. Early in April, I procured an ointment of this bark, prepared as is the Elder, directing the daily use of it to *the other arm* and *lower limb*—aiming to ascertain the relative merits of the two external modes of applying the remedy. The last week in March, the upper parts of both feet were much more affected than they had been before; and I directed the unguent to be constantly applied to the *left foot.* It proved soothing; while the other needed long-continued scratching. It was also applied at night to the ham of that limb, to advantage. Soon after the application was made to both feet, and before the 10th of April, both were relieved by it. Meantime my patient augmented the dose of the tincture internally, without noticing any inconvenience, till she had taken to the quantity of 44 drops at once. That quantity caused griping and colicky pains. I then directed her to take only 40 drops thereafter. That quantity gave her no uneasiness. 15th of April, I trusted to the external use of the unguent only. It excited erysipelatous inflammation on the arm and lower limb; but by the use of the decoction in place of it, it soon abated and disappeared. At this time the general appearance of her complaint was improved, and her health otherwise good. As the intensity of the disease abated, I suspected that perhaps the ointment might be too active. I therefore incorporated some of it with an equal quantity of fresh lard. It proved less irritating.

Prior to this time, she had used liquid laudanum, occasionally, *at her discretion*. April 17th, she considered herself much better, and all her limbs more free from irritation. 21st, I directed her to reduce her number of drops to thirty, and use the *weaker* ointment. For two or three days, her complaint increased in a small degree. I then ordered her to take only 25 drops, continuing the use of the external applications. May 3d, I directed her to wash one of her lower limbs with a weak solution of Mur. Hydrarg., omitting any application to the other. May 10th, it had excited considerable irritation. I then advised to cease using any of her remedies for a few days. 17th, her complaint abated to slight cutaneous affections, and her health was good. For many months past, genuflexion gave her much uneasiness. It is now performed readily. May 25th, some slight appearance of the complaint on her lower limbs, and so continued till the 30th. I again advised the use of the decoction and weaker unguent for a few days.

Early in June, she went into the country, ceased using any medicine, ate and drank as did her friends. She returned in August. Early in September, her complaint began to appear again, and augmented. She then used from ten to thirty drops of the tincture internally, and the mild ointment, without following any particular regimen. Early in October, the eruption was considerable about her hams and arms. Near the close of the month, a large patch appeared under her chin. The only remedy used was the decoction. By the 15th of November they were nearly gone, and otherwise she was in high health. During the remainder of November, and all December, she did not have occasion to use either of her remedies. To the 10th of January, she had only slight itching on her limbs, and eruptions, if they were rubbed, which ceased speedily.

Nearly a year has elapsed since I depended on the Rhus Vernix for curing my patient. Thus far I have been impelled to persevere, from its apparent utility and safety—in the way I have used it—in this solitary instance. I am, however, fully aware that repeated and protracted experiments are indispensable in confirming the practice. At my advanced period of life, it may never fall to my lot to have another opportunity. It is desirable that other medical gentlemen, of greater sagacity, should volunteer themselves to confirm or invalidate what I have done.

Brief Remarks and Observations relative to the Preceding.

In 1803, a Dissertation on the Rhus Vernix, Rhus Radicans, and Rhus Glabrum, was published in Philadelphia by Thomas Horsfield. It contains considerable information relative to their Natural History, and he promised to come before the public again on the same subject. I know not that he has redeemed the pledge. He has left much for future investigation. He quotes Professor Kalm, but takes no notice of Bernard Romans's Natural and Political History of Florida, published in 12mo, at New York, in 1776. The brief note from N. Jones ought to be passed to Romans's credit, as he tells us of the same fact in different words.

It seems desirable to ascertain *when* the trunk or branches of it become innoxious, i. e., how long its virulence is operative in a tree cut down. It is certainly equally virulent in the winter as in summer—when destitute of foliage, as when enrobed with it. As evidence of this fact, I state that one of my family, ignorant of its name or hazardous character, had occasion to go to the place where I had directed that to be placed which had been procured for me. He also removed it from the spot where it was standing, two or three feet only. He was poisoned thereby to such a degree, as not to gain a smooth skin till the following April. He was also purposely kept in ignorance of the name of the disease, considering it to be erysipelas!

It has been considered noxious to bystanders, while in a state of combustion. Further evidence is required: for the two sticks or bodies of the trees before mentioned, after having been deprived principally of their bark, and partially dried, were cut into firewood length, and burnt in my kitchen fireplace, during more than one day, when my family were constantly passing and standing near it; yet no one of them was known to suffer thereby.

The "sons of the forest," with greasy skins and indurated hands, are less susceptible of injury from it, probably, than are the "thin-skinned gentry." Is the fresh juice more acrid than the leaves, or the seeds in a bruised state? Is the bark of the root powerful at any time? less in summer than in the winter?

Dr. Horsfield makes this quotation from Kalm:—"Some people assured me that a person suffering from the noisome exhalations of these plants, would easily recover, by spreading a mixture of the wood burnt to charcoal, and hog's lard, upon the swelled parts." Wangenstien is also quoted thus:—"If the poison exists to its highest degree of virulence, the ashes of the wood, prepared in a close vessel, is used in its cure. An ointment is made of it with lard, with which the affected parts are anointed." Now we all know that charcoal made of oak wood, is more durable and useful, in divers cases, than charcoal made of the white pine. But who can suppose their chemical properties are variant? Any species of charcoal, prepared from sound wood, is likely to be useful in the case before us, if applied as a cataplasm; and perhaps hot ashes, made of solid wood, are equally useful, if rubbed on early. It is easily tested.

We are told that patients are sent into the fenny parts of England, to catch an intermittent fever, with the view of its superseding another disease more difficult of cure. What is the solid objection to the successful application of the juice of the green leaves, or a strong ointment, of the Vernix or Radicans, to any part of the chest of any person who has symptoms of incipient phthisis? or in recent cases of leprosy? as also those obstinate complaints generally known by the name of salt rheum?

TIMO. L. JENNISON.

Jan. 24, 1831.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1831.

Arrived at the conclusion of our 3d volume, we cheerfully yield to the impulse of duty in offering our acknowledgments to those who are enlisted among our subscribers. Increasing in numbers, in knowledge, and respectability, they have new claims on our thanks, our industry, and regard; and it will be our endeavor to meet these claims promptly and fully. In the coming year, as in the past, we shall reconnoitre among the byways as well as in the highways of professional knowledge, and bring to light such hidden treasures as promise to be of real worth to the medical practitioner; no attainable source of information will be neglected, and no exertion spared which may contribute to the direct usefulness or permanent value of this work—and we trust it will continue to be, as it has recently been, the record-book of every improvement in medical science, and the first herald, on this side the Atlantic, of the rich results of professional enterprise in other and distant countries. That the reader may be apprised of what is worth knowing, and be apprised of this speedily, are the leading objects of the editor in the arrangement of his weekly numbers:—and to present facts in brief outlines, so that the subscribers may be spared the time and labor of digging them out of the mines in which they come to us buried, is a task of no mean magnitude, and, we flatter ourselves, of no ordinary degree of usefulness. It is a task of which we can speak from long experience, and in the performance of which there are greater difficulties than are dreamt of in the philosophy of those who are acquainted only with its results. There are few among those who gaze with admiration on the most brilliant diamonds, or among those even who shine by their splendor, that waste a passing thought on the toil and patient research with which they have been sought and brought out from the solid masses of useless matter in which they were embedded, or on the hard labor subsequently required to bring them into the state in which they are seen and valued. Let it not be forgotten that like this is the toil of an editor; and if our messenger is not always the bearer of gold or brilliants, it is because we have hammered in vain, and not because we have not hammered at all: every kingdom is not a Golconda, and the mines of Peru are sometimes worked for nought.

At the commencement of the year now closed, we reminded our brethren of the great practical results which would follow a free communication of facts and opinions among the members of the profession, and offered our Journal as the vehicle of such intelligence. We are happy to find that this call was not unanswered; we have placed on record an uncommonly large number of original letters and discussions, most of which have been directly useful, and many of which are of great and permanent value. Some highly interesting papers, which could have been only *noticed*, under other circumstances, have been presented entire to our subscribers, by means of duplex numbers—a project commenced with this volume, and the wisdom of which is amply proved by a revision of its pages.

The external appearance of the next volume will be greatly improved. It will exhibit a finer paper, and a type entirely new. The type purchased by the publisher is not only new and handsome, but closer than that now used, and yet equally distinct.

In its internal concerns, we do not promise any essential improvement over the volume which is now closed; and the general satisfaction of our readers, and the flattering terms in which that satisfaction has been expressed, lead us to believe that our labors to present a fair, concise, and practical view, of all the discoveries and improvements made in every department of the healing art, and whatever of novelty or interest is going on in the medical world, need only be sustained with equal diligence, to be crowned with like success.

DECEMBER AT ST. AUGUSTINE.

The weather in all parts of New England, during the months of November and December, was such as to excite the notice of every one; and the absence of solar influence was most severely felt by all invalids. After the facts we have been enabled to present respecting the salubrity of the climate of St. Augustine, the reader will peruse with interest the following statement of the condition of the weather at that place, during the same months. It is from an intelligent source, and affords another confirmation of the accounts heretofore given of this beautiful and promising resort for those who are in search of a mild and healthy winter residence.

"An article in the New England Palladium gives the following statement relative to the weather in Boston for November: — Fair a part only of 11 days—18 rainy—and 11 on which the sun was not seen. Greater part of 21 cloudy.—Now compare this with the weather of St. Augustine for the same month. 24 days fair—4 cloudy—1 rainy—1 various. Very similar was the weather in October. 24 fair—4 cloudy—3 rainy. For December. 27 fair—3 cloudy—1 rainy.—The above are the results of Dr. A.'s observations put on paper at the time. You see the contrast."

USES OF MENSTRUATION.

A great number of different opinions have been expressed by physiologists, respecting the true causes and objects of the catamenial discharge. It was the opinion of the older physicians, that this evacuation is the result of general or local plethora; — plethora caused by the check of the growth of the individual, by the continued production, in the system, of fluids for which there is no use until after impregnation, when they are required to support the growth of the fœtus. Mr. Charles Bell supposes that there is, in the female system, a periodical excitement for the purpose of maturing the ovum, and that the menstrual evacuation is designed to relieve the uterine vessels which partake of this excitement. More recently it has been suggested, by Dr. Finley, of Cincinnati, that this discharge is more intimately connected, than heretofore supposed, with the formation of the deciduous membrane which lines the inner surface of the impregnated uterus. All the mucous surfaces have the power of secreting, under certain kinds and degrees of irritation, a membrane more or less organized. "In the present instance," says Dr. Finley, "the functions of the organ require that a membrane should be formed with a more perfect organization, and under a degree of irritation that should not exceed the healthy grade. For this purpose, a set of vessels would appear to be necessary, that would open readily upon the surface of the uterus, and secrete a vascular and organized membrane, under that slight degree of irritation which the local determination consequent upon conception would produce.

"It is peculiar to the females of our species, that they continue constantly in a condition favorable for conception, during the whole period from puberty to the time that the power of reproduction entirely fails. In order that these vessels may not suffer (as other parts of the vascular apparatus do when their action is not immediately called for in the system) from the inactivity in which they are often kept, in consequence of moral obligations and other circumstances of an accidental nature, it would appear to be necessary that they should continually be called into exercise. This discharge we suppose to be the means to which nature has recourse for this purpose."

The chief argument adduced in support of this opinion, is drawn from the fact that such adventitious membrane is sometimes formed when the organ is unimpregnated, but laboring under an unnatural and morbid irritation. This disease would thus be classed with those in which bones, hair, and other fragments of organized matter, have been discovered in the uterus, under circumstances which rendered impregnation impossible.

The great objection to this hypothesis appears to be, that the discharge is not met with in other animals in whom the membrane is formed after conception. In reply to this, Dr. F. urges the periodical seasons and intermediate quietude of these parts in such animals, whilst, in the human female, the parts are at all times in a condition favorable to conception. The moral and intellectual superiority of the latter, and the consequent, or rather attendant, imperfection of the process of generation, are also adduced; but we can find, in the essay of Dr. Finley, no conclusive reason for believing that his position has any very great advantage over that of Galen, of Cullen, or of Bell.

LITHOTRITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

We are happy to be able to announce to the profession, on the authority of Dr. Drake, of Philadelphia, that this operation, which has excited so much attention, and prevented so much suffering, in the transatlantic world, is about to be introduced into this country. Dr. Alban G. Smith, of Danville, Kentucky, visited Paris, about a year ago, for the express purpose of making himself familiar with the instruments of Lithotrity and their applications, under the pupilage of the celebrated Civiale. Dr. S. is now just returned to his native State, having accomplished the object of his visit, brought with him the instruments used in this operation, and prepared himself to use them whenever an opportunity shall offer.

Dr. Smith witnessed thirty cases of the operation of Lithotrity during his residence in the French metropolis, all which terminated favorably. When it is considered that little or no pain is produced by the use of these instruments, and that the usual operation of *Lithotomy* is always attended by extreme suffering, and, in a large proportion of cases, terminates fatally, we have good cause for congratulation, that, among the other lights emanating from the west, we have now added one of so much promise, to the unfortunate subject of one of the most afflicting maladies to which the human race is subject.

This operation is not one which can be done in all cases of the stone; but it is computed by Dr. S. that it may be adopted in about three-fourths of all which occur in the United States. In France it is performed at all the hospitals, and it is proposed to Government, by the National Institute, to appoint to each, in addition to the usual officers, a Lithontripteur, whose sole business there shall be to perform the operation in question.—It should be remembered that the number of cases of this disease in France, is vastly greater than in the United States, in proportion to the population of the two countries,—a circumstance which arises, probably, from the habits of the people, and the quantities of low wines, from certain districts, which are consumed by them.

Our usual supply of foreign periodicals, which furnish so much interesting and useful information on medical subjects, has fallen short for the last few weeks; to which circumstance is owing the particular dullness of the present and few last numbers of our paper. The winds have been such that we have not received any foreign medical works, of any description, of later date than the first of December last. Soon as a stout easterly brings them in, the reader shall be apprised of their most valuable contents.

The communication respecting Mr. Davis's Report on Anatomy, we regret to say, was received too late for this number. It shall appear next week.

The consideration of the above-mentioned Report in the House of Representatives, was postponed until this day at 11 o'clock.

Whole number of deaths in Boston the week ending Jan. 28th, 26. Males, 14—Females, 12. Of worms, 1; dropsy in brain, 2; unknown, 5; consumption, 7; old age, 2; fits, 2; inflammation in bowels, 1; inflammation in brain, 1; croup, 1; liver complaint, 1; quinsey, 1; hooping cough, 1; suicide, 1.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW MEDICAL BOOKS.

THIS day received by CARTER, HENDEE & BABCOCK—Treatise on Surgical Anatomy. By ABRAHAM COLLES, one of the Professors of Anatomy and Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, &c. &c. 2d Am. Ed., with notes, by J. P. Hopkinson, M.D.

Manual of Pathology, containing the Symptoms, Diagnosis and Morbid Characters of Diseases, together with an Exposition of the different Methods of Examination applicable to Affections of the Head, Chest and Abdomen. By L. MARTINET, D.M.P. Translated, with notes and additions, by JONAS QUAIN, A.B.

Pathological and Practical Researches on Diseases of the Brain and the Spinal Cord. By JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D.

Feb. 8.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE.

THE subscribers have formed a connexion in business as CHEMISTS, DRUGGISTS & APOTHECARIES, at Apothecaries' Hall, No 188 Washington Street, opposite Marlboro' Hotel, under the firm of JARVIS & PEIRSON.

NATHAN JARVIS.
GEORGE W. PEIRSON.

EUROPEAN LEECHES.

J. & P. have a few fine European Leeches—to the application of which, when directed by Physicians, they will attend without any additional charge.

Feb. 8.

WILLIAMS ON DISEASES OF THE LUNGS.

THIS day received, by CARTER & HENDEE, " A Rational Exposition of the Physical Signs of the Diseases of the Lungs and Pleura, illustrating their Pathology and facilitating their Diagnosis." By CHARLES J. B. WILLIAMS.

Dec. 6.

BECLARD'S GENERAL ANATOMY.

CARTER, HENDEE & BABCOCK have this day received—Elements of General Anatomy, or a Description of every kind of Organ composing the Human Body. By P. A. BECLARD, Professor of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. Preceded by a critical and biographical Memoir of the Life and Writings of the Author. By OLIVIER, M.D. Translated from the French, with Notes. By JOSEPH TOGNO, M.D., Member of the Philadelphia Medical Society. Dec. 28.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND CHEMICALS.

STUDENTS in want of the above articles, would do well to call, before purchasing, at BREWER & BROTHERS', Nos. 90 and 92 Washington Street—Boston.

Oct. 15. ep3m

GERMAN LEECHES.

RICHARD A. NEWELL, Druggist, Summer Street, respectfully informs the Physicians and Public generally, that he has just received a fresh supply of the above-named *Leeches*, which will be sold at a *fair* price.

N. B.—Leeches sent to any part of the city, and applied, without extra charge, by day or by night. 6w—Nov. 8.

ABERCROMBIE ON DISEASES OF THE STOMACH.

JUST received by CARTER & HENDEE—Pathological and Practical Researches on Diseases of the Stomach, the Intestinal Canal, the Liver, and other Viscera of the Abdomen. By JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, &c., and first Physician to his Majesty in Scotland. Sept. 28.

SURGEON DENTIST'S MANUAL.

JUST received, by CARTER & HENDEE, The Surgeon Dentist's Anatomical and Physiological Manual. By G. WAITE, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Nov. 2.

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.